



Steps	Search Strategy						
Write a clear topic statement:							
Select the keywords from your topic statement. <i>Usually 2 or 3 keywords give better results.</i>	Keyword A						
	Keyword B						
	Keyword C						
Based on the keywords you identified above, select synonyms, related terms, and alternate forms for each of these keywords.	Keyword A Synonyms						
	Keyword B Synonyms						
	Keyword C Synonyms						
Search Strategy 1: Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators ('AND' / 'OR') to connect your keywords. ◦ <i>Combine synonyms with OR.</i> ◦ <i>Combine different ideas/concepts with AND.</i>	Keyword A Synonyms		OR		OR		
	AND						
	Keyword B Synonyms		OR		OR		
	AND						
Keyword C Synonyms		OR		OR			
Search Strategy 2: Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators ('AND' / 'OR') along with your keywords. ◦ <i>Combine synonyms with OR.</i> ◦ <i>Combine different ideas/concepts with AND.</i>	Keyword A Synonyms		OR		OR		
	AND						
	Keyword B Synonyms		OR		OR		
	AND						
Keyword C Synonyms		OR		OR			
Select appropriate search tools (i.e. library catalogue, an article database, etc.).							
Search	<i>Take your search strategies from above and insert them in the databases you selected.</i>						
Review results and revise search.	<p><i>Not enough results? Revise your search terms and/or remove one of your keywords to broaden your results.</i></p> <p><i>Too many results? Use limits (scholarly journals, or by publishing year, etc...) and/or add another keyword to narrow your results.</i></p>						

HINT: Once you have found an appropriate source (i.e. book, journal article, etc...) for your research topic, remember to search its bibliography and locate those references at the Library

Steps	Search Strategy					
Write a clear topic statement:	<i>Discuss the prevalence and use of marijuana by Canadian teenagers</i>					
Select the keywords from your topic statement. <i>Usually 2 or 3 keywords give better results.</i>	Keyword A	<i>marijuana</i>				
	Keyword B	<i>teenagers</i>				
	Keyword C	<i>Canadian</i>				
Based on the keywords you identified above, select synonyms, related terms, and alternate forms for each of these keywords.	Keyword A Synonyms	<i>teens, adolescents, adolescence, youth, young people</i>				
	Keyword B Synonyms	<i>cannabis, pot, weed, reefer, dope, doobie, sticky icky...</i>				
	Keyword C Synonyms	<i>Canada, Canadians, British Columbia, Alberta, etc...</i>				
Search Strategy 1: Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators ('AND' / 'OR') to connect your keywords. ◦ Combine synonyms with OR . ◦ Combine different ideas/concepts with AND .	Keyword A Synonyms	<i>teens</i>	OR	<i>teenagers</i>	OR	<i>adolescents</i>
	AND					
	Keyword B Synonyms	<i>marijuana</i>	OR	<i>cannabis</i>	OR	<i>pot</i>
	AND					
Search Strategy 2: Formulate a search strategy using Boolean operators ('AND' / 'OR') along with your keywords. ◦ Combine synonyms with OR . ◦ Combine different ideas/concepts with AND .	Keyword C Synonyms	<i>Canada</i>	OR	<i>Canadians</i>	OR	<i>Alberta</i>
	AND					
	Keyword A Synonyms	<i>adolescents</i>	OR	<i>young people</i>	OR	<i>youth</i>
	AND					
Select appropriate search tools (i.e. library catalogue, an article database, etc.).	Keyword B Synonyms	<i>marijuana</i>	OR	<i>pot</i>	OR	<i>weed</i>
	AND					
	Keyword C Synonyms	<i>British Columbia</i>	OR	<i>Canada</i>	OR	<i>Ontario</i>
Select appropriate search tools (i.e. library catalogue, an article database, etc.).	<i>TRU library catalogue</i>		<i>article database: CBCA Current Events</i>			
	<i>article database: Academic Search Complete</i>		<i>Google??</i>			
Search	<i>Take your search strategies from above and insert them in the databases you selected.</i>					
Review results and revise search.	<i>Not enough results? Revise your search terms and/or remove one of your keywords to broaden your results.</i>					
	<i>Too many results? Use limits (scholarly journals, or by publishing year, etc...) and/or add another keyword to narrow your results.</i>					

This is what **search strategy #1** will look like in an article database, such as Academic Search Complete.



Searching: **Academic Search Complete** [Choose Databases »](#)

teens or teenagers or adolescents	in	Select a Field (optional)	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
and <input type="button" value="v"/>		marijuana or cannabis or pot	in Select a Field (optional) <input type="button" value="v"/>
and <input type="button" value="v"/>		canada or canadians or alberta	in Select a Field (optional) <input type="button" value="v"/> Add Row